

From: paulp@rocketworks.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 5:27pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

My name is Paul H. Parry. I am the Chief Technology Officer of Rocketworks LLC, an Internet integration firm with experience with web server platforms from companies including Microsoft, IBM, Sun, and AOL(Netscape). I am writing to SUPPORT the proposed settlement as the best and fastest way to restore competition to the affected markets, preserve existing competition in related markets, and quickly stabilize to the technology economy at a time when stability is badly needed.

As has been shown in recent analyses (http://www.actonline.org/press_room/releases/ACTNov5.pdf), this settlement addresses every concern and infraction upheld by the Court of Appeals, and provides many additional consumer benefits that are not required by the court's ruling.

The previous, overturned, ruling would have affected other markets, including web server platforms, handheld device operating systems, web content and e-commerce activities, that were not affected by Microsoft's behavior. All of these are thriving, competitive markets in which Microsoft is one of several innovative players. This settlement preserves that competition.

As many have said, Antitrust laws exist to protect consumers, not competitors. This settlement protects consumers more than adequately. The overturned order, as well as the newer request of the non-settling states, are aimed at providing benefits to Microsoft's competitors, without any judgement of whether their failings were due to Microsoft's anti-competitive behavior or their own lack of innovation. The matter of providing remedies to competitors is best left to private actions, such as the one being brought this week by AOL.

Consumers' views of Microsoft and its competitors are clear. In the latest Harris Interactive survey of corporate reputations (http://www.harrisinteractive.com/pop_up/rq/gold.asp), Microsoft was judged to have the 2nd best reputation among the US's 60 most visible corporations. This is up from 9th place in 2000 and 15th in 1999. Meanwhile, America Online placed 50th, down from 39th in 2000 and 26th in 1999. This is just one of many indications over the last four years that consumers like Microsoft's products, services, and corporate reputation.

Thank you for your attention,

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